

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 EA-13 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-03 ACDA-10 PM-03

DODE-00 NIC-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 USSS-00 INRE-00

DRC-01 /084 W

----- 066507

R 241703Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4285

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USUN NEW YORK 6576

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 27604

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, XF

SUBJECT: PRC AMBASSADOR'S VIEW OF MIDDLE EAST WAR

1. WHEN I PAID COURTESY CALL ON PRC AMBASSADOR TSENG T'AO, OCTOBER 23, HE ASKED MY VIEW OF THE MIDDLE EAST WAR. WHEN, IN RETURN, I ASKED HIS OPINION, HE AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE PARTIES INVOLVED SOLVE THE PROBLEM THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO CREATE SUCH AN AMBIANCE WHEN BOTH US AND USSR WERE SUPPLYING ARMS. ACCORDING TO TSENG, ASPIRATIONS OF ARAB PEOPLES AND INTEREST OF THE PALESTINIANS THEMSELVES WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IF THERE WERE TO BE A REAL RESOLUTION OF THE ME PROBLEM. HE HAD HIS DOUBTS THAT THESE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS WERE ADEQUATELY DISCUSSED BY THE SOVIETS WHEN SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS IN MOSCOW TSENG SAID THAT EVEN IN THIS MATTER SOVIETS PROBABLY HAD SOME PLOT IN MIND; HE HAZARDED THE GUESS THAT THE USSR WAS
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SEEKING TO ACQUIRE THROUGH THEIR MANEUVERS WITH THE ARABS THAT

MILITARY EXPANSION WHICH THE TSARS HAD SOUGHT, BUT NOT ACHIEVED.
IN SUM, HE THOUGHT THE SOVIETS WERE UP TO NO GOOD, AND ALTHOUGH THEY
MIGHT MAKE SOME SHORT TERM GAINS, THEY WOULD IN THE END LOSE MORE
THAN THEY GAINED.

2. COMMENT: I HAD ANTICIPATED TSENG'S EXPRESSING PRC CONCERNS
ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS CONCERNING EUROPE AND THE DANGERS OF THE
MBFR NEGOTIATIONS AS HE DID IN SUBSEQUENT REMARKS), BUT I HAD NOT
QUITE EXPECTED HE WOULD RAISE THE MIDDLE EAST WAR TO
CALL INTO QUESTION THE USSR'S MOTIVES, BUT NOT OURS.
IRWIN

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